Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method <u>of receiving information describing an image using a color histogram, the method</u> comprising:

receiving a first sequence of ~~values~~ <u>bits</u> and a second sequence of ~~values~~ <u>bits</u>, wherein[[:]] each ~~value~~ <u>bit</u> of the first sequence and each ~~value~~ <u>bit</u> of the second sequence is associated with a ~~category~~ <u>bin</u> and a ~~magnitude~~ <u>threshold</u>, and <u>wherein</u> in the order of ~~values~~ <u>bits</u> of both the first sequence ~~of values~~ and the second sequence ~~of values~~, no adjacent ~~values have~~ <u>bits are associated with</u> the same <u>bin</u> ~~category~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, <u>further</u> comprising comparing a ~~value~~ <u>bit</u> of the first sequence with a ~~value~~ <u>bit</u> of the second sequence if the ~~value~~ <u>bit</u> of the first sequence and the ~~value~~ <u>bit</u> of the second sequence are associated with the same ~~category~~ <u>bin</u> and same <u>threshold</u> ~~magnitude~~.

Claims 3-7. (Canceled)

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8.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein in the order of ~~values~~ bits

of both the first sequence ~~of values~~ and the second sequence ~~of values~~, ~~values~~ bits associated

with the same ~~magnitude~~ threshold are grouped together in groups.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the order of the groups is

according to resolution of information of each ~~value~~ bit of each group.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein in the order of ~~values~~ bits

of both the first sequence ~~of values~~ and the second sequence ~~of values~~, each ~~value~~ bit is

associated with a resolution equal to or higher than the preceding ~~value~~ bit.

11.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus configured to[[:]] receive and process

information describing an image using a color histogram, the apparatus comprising:

        means for receiving and processing ~~receive~~ a first sequence of ~~values~~ bits and a

second sequence of ~~values~~ bits, wherein[[:]] each ~~value~~ bit of the first sequence and each ~~value~~

bit of the second sequence is associated with a ~~category~~ bin and a ~~magnitude~~ threshold, and

wherein in the order of ~~values~~ bits of both the first sequence ~~of values~~ and the second sequence

~~of values~~, no adjacent ~~values have~~ bits are associated with the same bin ~~category~~.

12.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, <u>further</u> configured to compare a

~~value~~ <u>bit</u> of the first sequence with a ~~value~~ <u>bit</u> of the second sequence if the ~~value~~ <u>bit</u> of the first

sequence and the ~~value~~ <u>bit</u> of the second sequence are associated with the same ~~category~~ <u>bin</u> and

same ~~magnitude~~ <u>threshold</u>.

Claims 13-17. (Canceled)

18.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein in the order of ~~values~~

<u>bits</u> of both the first sequence ~~of values~~ and the second sequence ~~of values~~, ~~values~~ <u>bits</u> associated

with the same ~~magnitude~~ <u>threshold</u> are grouped together in groups.

19.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the order of the groups

is according to resolution of information of each ~~value~~ <u>bit</u> of each group.

20.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein in the order of ~~values~~

<u>bits</u> of both the first sequence ~~of values~~ and the second sequence ~~of values~~, each ~~value~~ <u>bit</u> is

associated with a resolution equal to or higher than the preceding ~~value~~ <u>bit</u>.

21.   (New) A method of describing color information of images using a color

histogram, comprising:

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selecting a number N of bins as a subset of M bins;

quantizing color information of an image using the N number of bins; and

describing the image using the quantized color information, where N < M, and wherein N number of bins and M number of bins share at least one common threshold.

22.   (New) A method of searching images described using the method of claim 21.

23.   (New) A method of transferring information describing an image using a color histogram, the method comprising:

transferring together and sequentially a first bit of each of a plurality of bins;

transferring together and sequentially a second bit of each of the plurality of bins; and

transferring together and sequentially all the bits having the same association for each of the plurality of bins until all bits have been transferred.

24.   (New) The method of claim 23, wherein in the event that the transfer is interrupted before completion, a query can be executed on the transferred portion.

25.   (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the first bit of each of the plurality of bins is associated with the same first threshold value.

26.   (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the second bit of each of the plurality of bins is associated with the same second threshold value.

27.   (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the bits having the same association for each of the plurality of bins are associated with the same respective threshold value.

28.   (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the first bit of each of the plurality of bins indicates division of a value based on the first threshold value.

29.   (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the second bit of each of the plurality of bins indicates division of the section of the value divided by the first bit.

30.   (New) The method of claim 29, wherein a n-th bit indicates division of each section divided by a (n-1)th bit.

31.   (New) A method of searching images transferred using the method of claim 23.